

AIR

SECRET

MGB-A-9707

2 August 1951

Chief, Foreign Division "M"

Chief of Station, Karlsruhe

Operational

CAMLET

Reference: MGB-W-9560

1. BOB's business relationship with CAMLET has about run its course. There exists now only a personal friendship between C and CAMLET. As you may recall, we got increasingly dissatisfied with the dearth, or rather complete absence, of operational leads which CAMLET was supposed to give us. We finally ran a test case to determine who actually reaped the benefit of the wide-flung connexions of CAMLET's enterprise, by directing one of our agents to report to his East Bureau. We learned to our chagrin that all along CIC, Region VIII, by recruiting the man in charge of CAMLET's East Zone coverage, had been skimming off the cream. Occasionally it does not pay to aim too high. We then decided that there was no point in continuing to maintain the fiction that CAMLET was an agent of ours. This notwithstanding CAMLET has continued to pass to us such material from East Zone sources, which does not lend itself to publication in his newspapers. This material, however, has been of such indifferent quality, and the use of it runs so completely counter to our practice of not accepting information from sources we do not control, that we have been entertaining serious misgivings about picking it up. If, on the other hand, you consider it worth your while to process his reports, please let us know. The effort involved in getting it is of a strictly mechanical nature, and there are no strings tied to it.

2. As regards the relationship between CAMLET and BORNYTHM, I have studiously abstained from asking any questions or passing any comments. I told CAMLET at the time BORNYTHM established a direct contact with him, that I would be completely out of the picture for better or for worse. He has never tried to embroil me in controversies relating to the BORNYTHM complex.

3. BOB has never passed funds to CAMLET, except when, acting in behalf of BORNYTHM, we were handling the control of CAMLET's propaganda activities in the East Zone. CAMLET, about two or three years ago, asked me to take into our safekeeping some dollar funds that belonged to him. The money, for purposes of convenience, was paid into special funds and consequently had to be carried on our accounts as a holding proposition. When CAMLET visited France this spring, he asked me to transfer the money to his credit with the American Express Company in Paris, which I did.

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4. CAMLET visits me about once a month at my home where we have lunch. Our main topic of conversation is the local Berlin situation which he, understandably, views from a strictly SPD viewpoint. While his information adds some local coloring to the sombre scene, I cannot bring myself to report it as straight intelligence. I don't consider CAMLET a "usually reliable source", nor do I trust his sense of discrimination in sorting out and reporting truly significant facts. His style of reporting ranges from the anecdotal to the vituperative, and making allowance for that would leave little substance to report upon. I have on repeated occasions enlisted CAMLET's services in getting CANARY straightened out and in mediating between him and Frans NEUMANN, the chairman of the SPD. Last month I had both Frans NEUMANN and CAMLET over for lunch to discuss the internal security situation in Berlin. Frans NEUMANN assured me his fullest backing in strengthening the political law enforcement branch of the Berlin Police.

5. Operational expenses are too insignificant to warrant request for a special allocation. Occasional presents of Cognac and cigars are drawn from operational supplies. After the undersigned case officer's departure from Berlin, all further operational or social contacts will lapse. The picking up of intelligence material can safely be entrusted to the BGRH/TM representative provided this can be reconciled with his legend. We shall look into that aspect as soon as we receive word from you.

6. We presume that hitherto existing relations between CAMLET and [] will continue. In this connection you may also have to consider the CAMISE angle, who, as long as she continues in our service, will link us with CAMLET and his newspaper.

Reply re report -
See M & K W 8
27 Aug 51
(filed)
other cell

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321-23212